



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. ³¹~~22~~ No. 3 343 King's Highway East September 1987

GLASSMAKING IN SOUTH JERSEY

Thursday, September 24, 1987 - Haddonfield Borough Hall

The story of glassmaking in South Jersey is fascinating: Its beginnings, the rise and fall of many local ventures and finally, its development as a successful commercial industry which continues even today. Even more interesting is the story of the glass blowers who created the tradition of South Jersey glass.

Society members will have the opportunity to get an expert overview of the history of the people and the factories associated with South Jersey glass at the September meeting.

Gay Taylor, Curator of the Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village, will discuss the history of the factories from the 18th century to the present, touching upon the products, transportation and child labor laws.

A graduate of Kutztown State College, Ms. Taylor has attended numerous seminars given by the Corning Museum of Glass, Sandwich Glass Museum and Early American Glass Club. In addition, Ms. Taylor is active in several professional organizations and has published numerous articles on glassmaking in journals specializing in glass and glass-related subjects.

The story of glassmaking in America began with Jamestown where the Polish and Dutch glassblowers sent with the colonists actually did establish a glass house, did produce glass, some of which was sent to England.

The first really successful glass-making venture, however, was started by an enterprising Philadelphia manufacturer of brass buttons, Caspar Wistar. What prompted Wistar to get into glassmaking is not known, but being an observant businessman, he perhaps saw the need for locally produced glass. At any rate, he defied England's ban on the manufacture of glass in the colonies and began to build a glass factory on Lower Alloways Creek at a site known as Thompson's Bridge (today's Alloway).

To assure the success of his operation, Wistar brought to his factory several skilled glassblowers from Holland and Germany. Building started in the spring of 1739, and late in the year, the furnace was fired, and

glassmaking began in New Jersey; and with it, the tradition of South Jersey glass.

What today is described as South Jersey glass is a continuation of the blowing and decoration techniques introduced by the craftsmen employed by Wistar Glassblowers seem to have been a peripatetic group. Former Wistar artisans formed the Stenger Glassworks at Glassboro; others migrated north to New York and the New England States; and still others, went west to Pennsylvania and Ohio. with them went the South Jersey tradition. South Jersey glass can be identified by its inherent characteristics rather than by either date or place of origin. Some excellent examples come from New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio .. places far removed from their Jersey origins.

Glassmaking is an integral part of New Jersey history, more so to us, since it all began "in our own back year." Join your friends and neighbors on September 24 when Gay Taylor will be the Society's guest.

A U C T I O N

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! ANNUAL A U C T I O N Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m., till 3:00 p.m., (preview 9:00 a.m.). Please attend and invite your friends to attend.

You may bring your donation for the auction to the garage Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m., to 11:30 a.m., beginning Monday, September 14.

SOMETHING NEW - We will accept items of a minimum \$100.00 value to sell on consignment with a commission of 20% of the auction sale price. If the item isn't sold, you may pick it up Saturday after the auction or the following Monday 9:30 a.m., to 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Burrough (609) 429-8361.

Plan on coming as we never know what treasures will emerge from the renowned attics of Haddonfield.

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday October 25 is another date to be marked on your calendar. In connection with Haddonfield's Fall Festival days, Greenfield Hall will be open on Sunday with a special exhibit, and tours of the building. Tea will be served.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Suddenly - it's Fall! So after the long hot summer we have to get back into the swing!

Before we forget, we do want to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the questionnaire which was sent to the membership. If any of you still want to return your form, it helps to know what you want from the Society, what you are willing to give, and what you are presently getting that is of value.

Next on the agenda, we would like to mention a Community Food Drive which will be held from September 20 to October 3 and is to help the hungry in Camden. Notices were sent to all Haddonfield organizations asking for help and the Haddonfield Historical Society duly received a notice and invitation to participate. After discussion at the last Council meeting, it was decided that since "open" hours at the Society are very limited, the best course would be to make an appeal to all our members to help in this good work by taking their food donations to their local churches. Businesses, schools, and churches will have boxes on their premises and we urge each of our members to support this Community Food Drive.

In wondering what we might share with you in this month's Bulletin, it seemed as though a word about our Planning Committee might be in order. You are no doubt aware that there has been such a committee working in the background since the new By-laws were prepared and simplified and changes proposed to make our Society a more workable organization. This Planning Committee was formed during the term of Doug Rauschenberger and Joseph Hartel agreed to accept the chairmanship. The Committee is a continuing committee set up to decide priorities as to future needs, to work out plans relative to establishing and maintaining a strong financial set-up, to suggest activities which might implement the work of the Society, etc. Their proposals are taken to the Executive Council for final decision. Presently the Committee is making a study of the space use at Greenfield Hall with the possible move of the Library to the second floor where there would be more space and where records could find better and safer storage. Another study is being made relative to the Hip Roof House which has shown deterioration due to weathering. These are a few considerations. Needless to say, if you hear of proposed changes in the future, you can know that somewhere along the line the Planning Committee has been at its job.

This month our thanks go to John Reisner, our Counsel, for taking care of matters in connection with a recent legacy under the will of Helen Hull Streeter. Very special thanks, again, to Mabel Kay for so very successfully chairing our Village Fair. Feed-back from the Fair indicated that everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, the craft persons, the Constitution booklets, and, best of all, proceeds were just a bit ahead of the amount realized last year! Also, thanks to Ruby Oberst, our Housekeeping Chairperson, who has secured a cleaning service to take care of our building on a regular basis. It has never looked better!

Mary C. Carll

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee submits the following slate of officers:

President	Patricia Lennon (Mrs. James J.)
First Vice President	Margie Kanupke (Mrs. William C.)
Second Vice President	Vivian Stauder
Fourth Vice President	James Atkinson
Recording Secretary	Charlesanna Fallstick
Corresponding Secretary	Mickey Mack (Mrs. Ronald)
Treasurer	Nancy Rauschenberger (Mrs. Douglas)

The above officers to serve for a term of one year with the exception of the First Vice President. Her term will be for two years - the first year as First Vice President and the second year as President.

Trustees - Three year term expiring in 1990

Sally Cooper
Albert Kernagis
Blair Murphy
Connie Reeves (Mrs. Edmund H.)

Submitted by
Mrs. William Hilbert, Chairman

Committee _____ Members

Mrs. Thomas McGlade
Mrs. William Moody
Mr. Stuart Lyons
Mr. John Reisner, III

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Greenfield Hall

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